

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 8 and 10 have been canceled and claims 4, 7, and 9 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested. Claims 4-7 and 9 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101:

In the Office Action, at page 3, numbered paragraph 8, claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 10 has been canceled, and claim 9 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation at page 3, item 8 of the Office Action. Therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

THE INTERVIEW:

Applicant's representative thanks the Examiner for conducting the interview held on October 15, 2004 and for proposing amendments to the claims that distinguish them from the Throup reference. In response to the interview, this amendment amends the claims to implement the Examiner's proposal. The specific points discussed during the interview are presented in detail below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

In the Office Action, at page 4, item number 10, claims 4-6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,292,167 ("Throup") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,480,300 ("Aoyama"). The reasons for this rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 4 has been amended to include the recommendations made by the Examiner during the interview held October 15, 2004. Therefore, claim 4 clarifies that the light data is allocated to surrounding pixels "on or within a boundary" and that "each allocated light data is

equal to each other." Throup does not teach this feature. In Throup, the value of each light data depends on coefficients. Coefficients within a circular boundary have a "maximum value," coefficients intersected by the boundary have a "value determined by the position of the intersection," and coefficients outside the boundary have a "zero value." Because the coefficients have different values, the light data also have different values and are not equal to each other. As Aoyama also does not teach or suggest this feature, claim 4 is patentable over Throup, Aoyama, or Throup in view of Aoyama.

Regarding dependent claims 5 and 6, "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." MPEP § 2143.03. Claims 5 and 6 depend upon claim 4; therefore they are nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103.

In the Office Action, at page 5, item number 11, claims 7, 8, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Throup in view of Aoyama and further in view of the article "A Lens and Aperture Camera Model for Synthetic Image Generation". The reasons for this rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Regarding claim 7, "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." MPEP § 2143.03. Claim 7 depends upon claim 4; therefore claim 7 is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103. Regarding claims 8 and 10, the claims have been canceled.

CONCLUSION:

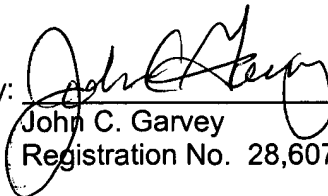
In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 11-1-04

By: 
John C. Garvey
Registration No. 28,607

1201 New York Ave, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501